

Transportation Conformity Working Group

Interagency Consultation

Meeting Summary

**Tuesday, November 22, 2005
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Southern California Association of Governments
818 W 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Riverside 'A' Conference Room**

The following minutes are intended to summarize the matters discussed.
Due to technical difficulties there is no audio recording of the meeting available for review.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Ty Schuling, SANBAG

2.0 WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE:

In Person:

Naresh Amatya, SCAG
Grace Balmir, FHWA/FTA
Jennifer Bergener, OCTA
Jennifer Brost, SCAG
Jessica Kirchner, SCAG
Anup Kulkarni, OCTA
Kathryn Higgins, SCAQMD
Philip Law, SCAG
Ken Lobeck, RCTC
Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG
Ty Schuling, SANBAG
Arnie Sherwood, ITS/UCB
Paul Taylor, OCTA
Leann Williams, Caltrans
Sean Yeung, Caltrans

Via Teleconference:

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters
Paul Fagan, Caltrans District 8
Carol Gomez, AQMD
Sandy Johnson, Caltrans
Ted Matley, FDA Region 9
Jean Mazur, FHWA
Karina O'Connor, EPA
Eyvonne Sells, AQMD

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at this meeting.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report at this time.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approval of the October 25, 2005 Meeting Summary

It was noted that there was a typo error on page 3, Item 6.5, second paragraph, INFACT 2000 mile should have read EMFAC 2002 model instead.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

It was requested that item 6.3, be brought forward after the presentation of 6.1

6.1 TCM Update (Jessica Kirchner, SCAG)

Staff presented a brief overview of the TCM process. The presentation included information on the definition of a TCM, the reporting requirements (Timely Implementation) and the process for substitution. The working group discussed the new TCM requirements under SAFETEA-LU and decided to defer discussion of the new requirements to the December meeting. EPA stated they have draft guidance and might be able to discuss the guidance at the next meeting.

6.3 Centerline Update (Paul Taylor, OCTA)

Paul Taylor summarized the OCTA Centerline replacement. Several working group members continued to express concern over the replacement of the Yorba Linda Station with the Fullerton Station. The concern was that emissions credit had already been taken for the Fullerton Station (as it was erroneously included in the 2004 RTIP). As a result of the discussion, a suggestion was made that the Fullerton project be removed as TCM replacement. It was pointed out that the four projects proposed to replace the Centerline would have enough "extra" emissions benefits to combine the Yorba Linda Station with the Centerline project replacement. The suggestion was agreed upon by the members.

6.2 RTP Update (Naresh Amatya, SCAG)

Naresh provided a brief update on the next RTP Update. He indicated that SCAG Staff will be recommending to the TCC at their December 2005 meeting to develop the next RTP pursuant to the new transportation bill SAFETEA-LU, which allows update of the RTP on a 4-year cycle rather than 3-year cycle required previously. This would mean that the next RTP will be presented to the Regional Council for adoption in 2008. The key benefit of this approach is that we will, finally, be able to synchronize the air quality planning process with the transportation planning process. Specifically, the 2008 RTP would be required to comply with the latest SIP emission budgets, which will be submitted to the US EPA for approval in June of 2007. The new SIP budgets would be based on the latest model and latest activity data consistent with the information and the tools that will be used to demonstrate conformity on the 2008 RTP. A key issue in updating the RTP in 2008 is that the conformity on the current RTP runs out in June of 2007. However, SAFETEA-LU does contain a provision that allows for a

one year grace period before the conformity actually lapses. Although there are some concerns that potential amendments to RTIP may not be approved during this grace period, the language in the bill is not decisive on this issue. Federal agencies will be developing clarifying guidance on the SAFETEA-LU implementation over the next several months and SCAG staff will work with appropriate federal representatives to convey our concerns and recommend appropriate clarifying language that will potentially eliminate any ambiguity. Furthermore, SCAG will also be pursuing clarifying bills through our legislative representatives to ensure that our concerns are addressed.

6.4 2007 AQMP Update (Kathryn Higgins, SCAQMD)

SCAQMD is meeting with California Stakeholders on December 6, 2005, regarding modeling items and a Technical Advisory Meeting, as well as the Modeling Advisory Meeting will meet on December 7, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. The AQMP Working Group Advisory Meetings will begin late December, early January.

SCAQMD is working with CARB who is in the process of providing the district with the gross correction factors of the EMFAC 2002 model.

6.5 Reauthorization Guidance (Jean Mazur, FHWA)

Conformity issues have been reviewed and a draft of the Conformity Guidance should come out within a month.

6.6 PM 2.5 Conformity Process (Jessica Kirchner, SCAG)

Staff has released and posted on its website a 45 day public comment period on the process. The public hearing will be held on January 5, 9:00 a.m., at SCAG. Adoption should take place in January 2006

6.7 Information Sharing (Group Discussion)

Eyvonne Sells asked to speak with EPA after the meeting regarding a statement made regarding TCM's and the AQMP.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 A.M. The next meeting of the TCWG will be on Tuesday, December 20th at the SCAG office.